

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Bernard L. Sembly.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guardsman Sergeant Bernard L. Sembly upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Sergeant Bernard L. Sembly in ground combat operations in Baghdad; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly was a native of Bossier City and the oldest of three children of Frederick and Renee Britton and was a 1999 graduate of Huntington High School, joining the Louisiana National Guard in January, 2001, because of his love for his country and his desire to serve militarily just as his father had; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armored Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team located in Shreveport where he served honorably and with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004 when his unit was ordered to Baghdad to participate in operations to stabilize the area in time for the first free elections to be held in the desert nation in more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly was proud to serve as a tanker and be a key infantry

1 support component, bringing order to the chaos of a major offensive by terrorists determined
2 to stop free elections and plunge the troubled country into anarchy, destruction, and
3 hopelessness; and

4 WHEREAS, the efforts of Sergeant Sembly were highly successful in the
5 accomplishment of their mission, as terrorists were forced to withdraw from the battlefield
6 and free elections were held and a new day dawned in the former dictatorship; and

7 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly was 25 years old when he and the men of his unit were
8 given the mission on May 19, 2005, of manning an observation post in a part of Baghdad
9 known for its terrorist activities and frequent and deadly clashes between insurgents and
10 American forces; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly dismounted from his tank and was moving toward the
12 observation post when he was immediately attacked by heavily armed enemy forces using
13 small arms and supported by snipers who hit Sergeant Sembly with their fire and mortally
14 wounded him; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sembly's gallant conduct will be forever remembered by all
16 those who served with him, his death in battle is made even more tragic by the 18-month-old
17 son, Tyler Sembly, who was left without a father and who will never know what a dedicated
18 soldier his dad was.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
21 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guardsman Sergeant
22 Bernard L. Sembly for his faithful service, his ultimate sacrifice, and the bravery with which
23 he conducted himself despite the many dangers he operated under.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 family of Sergeant Bernard L. Sembly.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guardsman Sergeant Bernard L. Sembly.